



Herald of Good TIDINGS

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”

FROM THE PASTOR

I recently heard that Boston is one of the healthiest cities in America. Then the DJ questioned that assertion with, as she called it, “The trifecta of drinking games coming up.” Those days are, “St. Patrick’s Day, Opening Day and Marathon Race Day.”

I suppose I should be happy Saint Patrick’s Day still has its original name, while Patriots’ Day which commemorates the “Shot Heard Round the World,” is now just Marathon Day. How did Saint Patrick’s Day come to be in danger of being “Green Clothes and Green Beer Day?”

Saint Patrick himself was a fascinating man. He was not Irish, though he is the Patron Saint of Ireland. He left several writings including a confession (a biography of his Spiritual Journey) and some prayers. The following is *The Life of Saint Patrick* taken from *Catholics Online’s* “Saints and Angels” section.

As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote, “The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain.”

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family. He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him “We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more.” He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, (in France) whom he had studied under for years. Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message. Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Beningnus, Auxilius, Iserninus, and Fiaac (all later canonized as well). Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. He died at Saul, where he had built the first church.

Continued on page 3

SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH

- 3/4 “A Jewish Understanding” 3/11 “The Inequity of the Parents Visited Upon the Children, Why?”
3/18 “The Servant and the Serpent Lifted Up” 3/25 “The Order of Melchizedek”

Children’s Time:

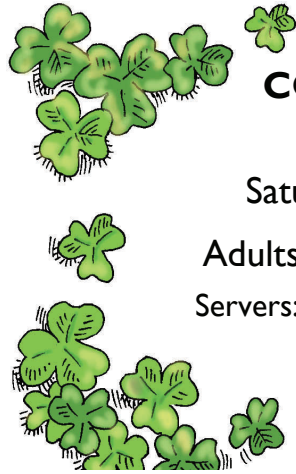
- 3/4 “Bad Things Don’t Happen to Good People. Except When It Does”
3/11 “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir”
3/18 “What Happens If You Say, ‘Are We There Yet?’ Too Often”
3/25 “Have You Thought of Getting Married or Having Kids?”



Pastor’s Message

Coffee Hour Hosts

- Mar. 4 & 11 Outreach Committee
- Mar. 18 Deacons
- Mar. 25 & Apr. 1 Board of Trustees



COMMUNITY CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE SUPPER

Saturday, March 17th at 5p.m.

Adults - \$10 Children - \$ 5

Servers: B.O.C.E. (additional volunteers are always appreciated.)



SAVE THE DATE:

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance's
27th Annual WALK for the Homeless
Sunday, May 20, 2012

For more information contact Amy Walsh
at awalsh@cmhaonline.org.

JOYFUL NOYSE SCHEDULE

- 3/4 ~ 9:15 a.m. rehearsal
 "Keeping My Eyes on You"
- 3/11, 3/18 ~ 11:15 a.m. rehearsal



CRADLE ROLL ROTATION

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3/4 Jessie Harrington | 3/11 Cindy Dube |
| 3/18 Sue Campbell | 3/25 Paula Comeau |
| 4/1 Deb Pellegrino | 4/8 Linda Hardy (10:30 a.m.) |

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROTATION

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 3/4 Judy Murphy | 3/11 Jen Bohn |
| 3/18 Alex Brownell | 3/25 Connie Hanks |
| 4/1 Jen Bohn | 4/8 HOPpy Easter |

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship.

**Applications are due
by April 15th.**

Spring Fling Fashion Show

This show will feature fashions from Christopher Banks of the Auburn Mall.

The event will take place on **March 25, 2012**
at the Faith Baptist Church at **2:00 p.m.**
Refreshments will be served.

Admission is \$20.00 with proceeds supporting the Auburn Woman's Club Scholarship Fund.



Thank you all, it was a wonderful worship and party at my Installation. Thank you especially to the cooks and the pastors who participated and attended. I really appreciate the gift of a Nook Tablet. I was looking at buying one because my Nook has a bad screen.

Thanks again,
Pastor Brian

Happy Birthday to:

- 3/16 - MacKenzie Lillian Young
- 3/20 - Barbara Niles
- 3/26 - Jean McPherson



Continued from page 1

Why a shamrock? Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity, and it has been associated with him and the Irish since that time. The miracle of Saint Patrick is not driving out the snakes or defeating the Druids. For me, it is being an effective preacher and evangelist to people who had tortured you. There was no reason for Patrick to love the Irish. They had captured him, carried him off, and made him tend sheep far from home town or village. Yet, when he heard in a dream that the Irish needed him to spread the Gospel, he went. He was so successful that the Irish accepted him as their own. The Irish and English have been enemies for centuries. But, in Saint Patrick that war ends. The English Roman became the most Irish, Irishman.

Let us close with a prayer attributed to St Patrick.

As I arise today,
 may the strength of God pilot me,
 the power of God uphold me,
 the wisdom of God guide me.
 May the eye of God look before me,
 the ear of God hear me,
 the word of God speak for me.
 May the hand of God protect me,
 the way of God lie before me,
 the shield of God defend me,
 the host of God save me.
 May Christ shield me today.
 Christ with me, Christ before me,
 Christ behind me,
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
 Christ when I stand,
 Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.
 Amen

God Bless,
 Pastor Brian

St. Patrick's
 Day



FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Two openings remain on the Outreach Committee. If you haven't committed to a committee, or are simply curious and just wish to visit from time to time, please know you are most welcome anytime with your ideas and fellowship. Outreach meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 14th.



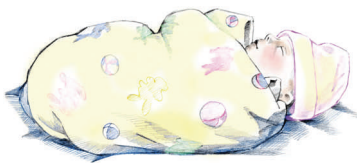
March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, Trisomy Awareness Month, National Endometriosis Awareness Month, Save Your Vision Month, and Workplace Eye Wellness Month.

The 5th-11th is National Sleep Awareness Week, the 5th-9th is National School Breakfast Week. March 8th is World Kidney Day and the 10th is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Day. The 12th-18th is Brain Awareness Week, the 18th-24th is Poison Prevention Week. March 24th is World Tuberculosis Day and the 27th is American Diabetes Alert Day. There will be information on the Health Table in Fellowship Hall.

The medical supply closet is full at the moment. If you need some equipment, please take it. Sometimes there are adult briefs in the closet. Please, if you know of someone that needs these items, take them.

Happy Spring! God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse



Newborn

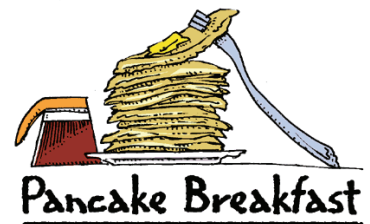
Congratulations to the Wilson Family on the birth of Colin James Wilson born February 7th, 2012 and weighing in at 7 lbs., 8 oz and 20 ³/₄ inches long. Colin is the son of Leslie and Peter Wilson. Proud family members also include: Aunt and Uncle - Lisa and Eric Cove; grandparents - Lois and Russell Therrien; and great-grandparents - Grace and George DuVerger. Congratulations to all!

Please plan to join us on **Sunday, March 11th** as we celebrate **Girl Scout Sunday**. During coffee hour that day the Girl Scouts will be having a **cookie walk/cookie booth**. That's right, you can enjoy both homemade and original Girl Scout cookies while helping Girl Scout Troop 30079 celebrate the Girl Scouts 100 year anniversary at the World Headquarters in Switzerland. We **thank you** in advance for your support. (Remember, Girl Scout Troop 30079 meets here at the Church twice a month.)



Heifer International Overlook Farm

216 Wachusett Street,
Rutland, MA
508-886-2221



PANCAKES AT THE FARM

**MARCH 10TH & 11TH
9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

Tour the farm to view the sugaring operation and enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast with maple syrup and pork sausage. Reservations are required.

Admission:

Adults: \$12 Children (3 -10) \$6
Children age 2 and under: free

Here We Grow Preschool



Our final fundraiser of Hebert Candy Bars is once again a huge success. We ran it for the entire month of February giving everyone time to seek out all family relatives and encourage them to buy, eat and put on weight all the while enjoying CHOCOLATE.

The children and staff celebrated Valentine's Day with parties on the 13th & 14th. The children all had the opportunity to be mail carriers during circle time. They had a great time. The parents provided snack which consisted of cookies, ice cream/jello and juice.

February was a busy time in the office. We had many interested families visiting *Here We Grow* to check us out for next year. Did you know that most families come to HWG because a friend, neighbor or relative has recommended us? That is our best form of advertising. Our Open House is scheduled for March 7th, 1:00-2:30. Thank you to Denise who designed our open house flyers and thanks to Judy for printing them for us. We do have spots available in the 2-day sessions and a few 4 year old p.m. spots are still available. We are hoping for the remainder spots to fill up within the next few months. With the economy as it is, we are seeing a slight decline in enrollment, especially the 3 year old sessions. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for their child, please send them our way. Many of the visitors remarked on how well kept and clean the classrooms, hallways and vestry are. I'd like to thank Craig Premo and his oldest daughter, Shannon; Dave Sampson, Stan McPhee, and Wayne Prouty for the extra "things" they do to help HWG out.

Looking ahead to March we will be offering Parent Volunteer Month: parents can spend time in their child's classroom as a helper for the day, do science experiments (if they are brave), or read a story at the end of the day. We do have an open door policy throughout the year, but we find with Parent Volunteer Month, many parents who work will take a day off and come spend it with their child. We enjoy having the extra set of hands to help. Once again, Neal Primaeux will be here the first week of March for picture taking.

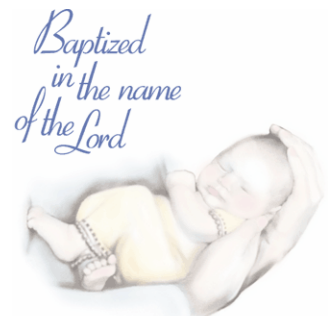
As of this writing we are still waiting for snow, but if it chooses to by-pass us this year, we won't be heartbroken.

Until next month, stay healthy, warm and safe.

Dawn Murphy, *Here We Grow* Director

Please join us for *Here We Grow's* Open House
Wednesday, March 7th from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

During worship on Sunday, February 12th, we celebrated the baptism of Madelyn Rose Pellegrino. Madelyn is the 7 month old daughter of Peter and Cynthia Pellegrino. Proud grandparents are Paul and Debra Pellegrino, Cheryl and Clem Berthiaume, and Kurt Lindberg. We pray God's blessings upon Madelyn and her family.



TIDINGS MARCH 2012

Happy Spring to everyone! Although it was a mild winter, there is something about the newness of spring, with all the flowers budding and birds singing, that lift up one's soul. I hope when you read this we are enjoying a wonderful warm spring day and not some spring snow storm.

As we begin the Season of Lent, we will be gearing up for the **Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast** before church and **Easter Egg Hunt** after church **on April 1st**. Also, on Palm Sunday we are planning to catch a **Worcester Sharks game** at 3:00 p.m. **On April 1st** the Worcester Sharks are hosting a "Faith and Family Night" for local churches. Please look for sign-up sheets for these events in Fellowship Hall as Palm Sunday approaches.

**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**



**Palm Sunday
Breakfast**

Youth On a Mission will be officiating the **Sunrise Service** at Hillside Cemetery this year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Valentine's craft due to lack of participation. I really need people to sign-up ahead of time on the bulletin board so I can plan the activity. Since no one signed up, I cancelled, and then had many people come up to me and ask if we were doing anything for Valentine's Day. Please read the bulletin and look on the Sunday School bulletin board in the rear of fellowship hall, by the office hallway, for sign up sheets and notices.

March 18 we will be having **spring crafts** after service. **PLEASE SIGN UP** if you would like to attend.

May you all have a spring full of renewal of faith and spirit.

With His guidance we serve,

Jean McPherson.
Director of Religious Education

We continue to hold scheduled potluck suppers (a combination of the "Spirit Suppers" and a book/movie club - "Dinner and Discussion") in the vestry. The next get together will be on **Tuesday, March 13th at 6 p.m.** We will be discussing the book, *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom.

Remember, you do NOT have to read the book; if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evening. Come for dinner, come for just the discussion.

Looking ahead, we will be viewing the movie, *Soul Surfer*, at our potluck supper Tuesday, Apr. 17th. Since it's a movie, we will start at **5:30 p.m.** A complete list of books, movies and dates is available on the table in both fellowship hall and the adult library. Please see Jen Bohn if you have any questions.



On Saturday, April 14, we will be having a **Church Spring Cleaning Day.** We will concentrate on the kitchen, attic, and the closets in Fellowship Hall on the stage. Please come between 8-noon, for any length of time you can, to help clean, throw stuff out or find forgotten treasures.

If you, or a group you are part of, have items in any of the areas mentioned, please go through it and decide what, if anything, can be discarded.

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead



Computers (neither Kindles nor Nooks) Won't Put Them Away . . .

BOOKS Are Really Here to Stay!

Why Do We Have Church Libraries?

- 1.) To provide books for adults and children whose contents can be as comfortable in their homes as in God's house.
- 2.) To house a broad variety of fiction, biographies and other subjects, but also to feature 8 categories which relate to religion and which include religious thoughts and beliefs and inspiration.
- 3.) Not to compete with best seller lists, but to blend some of the most recent and highly recommended books with the older and timeless books.
- 4.) To provide initial or supplementary material for special programs or for the Sunday School staff and children.
- 5.) To open little eyes and ears, from nursery age through teens, to a beautiful selection of children's books. There have been some wonderful gifts to this library and the adult library.

TO KEEP YOUR SANITY IN A TROUBLED WORLD – TRY READING!

One Great Hour of Sharing – OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and provides support to people in over 80 countries. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally. Through this refugee, relief, and development fund lives are changed. Sharing brings Joy! You'll find offering envelopes enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please drop in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Thank you!

Music at Trinity

On Sunday, March 4th at 4 p.m. *Music at Trinity* presents *Harmonie Transverse* in concert. This flute ensemble takes their name from the word *Harmonie* for wind band and *Transverse* for side blown flute. Celebrating their tenth anniversary in 2012, the group is comprised of performers, teachers, parents and artists who play flutes in all sizes ranging from the piccolo to the tall contrabass flute. The concert will include a variety of works written and transcribed for flute ensembles. *Music at Trinity* is an outreach of **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**, located at 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA 01607. The event is open to all, and a light reception will follow the concert. There is no admission fee; however, a free will offering will be taken.

Easter Plant Order Form

Once again, we will be accepting orders for Easter plants. On Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one while also decorating our Church Sanctuary. Just complete the order form below and drop it off at the Church or mail it to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **no later than Sunday, March 25th.**

Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00 _____

Lilies (2 stems) \$15.00 _____

Tulips 8" pot (11 bulbs) \$10.00 _____

Tulips large pot (22 bulbs) \$16.00 _____

Color Choice: Yellow _____ Pink _____
 Red _____ Orange _____

Hyacinth (6 bulbs) \$10.00 _____

Color Choice: Blue _____ White _____ Pink _____

Dedication: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of/for _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

If you have questions, please call Connie or Ron Hanks at 508-832-4227 or the church office at 508 -832-2845. Extra order forms are available online, from Denise in the office, from a Deacon or on the table in Fellowship Hall.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,
 United Church of Christ
 128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508) 832-2845
 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
 or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

*God's church in Auburn Center
 doing Christ's work in the world.*

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



**BULK RATE
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 Auburn, Mass**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

March 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31